

the GDL bonding stages 116, the seal incorporating stages 117, and the integration unit 103 are performed in synchronism with each other.

Change(s) applied to document,
/M.J.D./
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Page 22, lines 2-²⁴~~25~~, replace with the following paragraphs:

In this fuel cell producing apparatus, a pair of separator/GDL assemblies 102 are produced synchronously in the ~~sub-lines~~ sub assembly lines 101A and 101B, and are conveyed synchronously to the integration unit 103 by the separator conveyors 118. The feeding of the electrolyte membrane 105 by the electrolyte membrane supply unit 104 is effected in synchronism with the conveyance of the separator/GDL assemblies 102 by the separator conveyors 118. Thus, the electrolyte membrane supply unit 104 alternately repeats the feeding of the electrolyte membrane 105 for one span and the standby during the processing at the GDL bonding stages 116, the seal incorporating stages 117, and the integration unit 103.

The electrolyte membrane supply unit 104 on standby stops the servo motor driving the roll 7 107, and retains the electrolyte membrane 105, with its leading edge slightly protruding toward the integration unit 103 from between the rectifying plates 9B 109B, by the conveyance airflows blown out of the conveying nozzles 9A 109A. When feeding the electrolyte membrane 105, the roll 7 107 is rotated by the servomotor. Then, the electrolyte membrane 105 is fed to the integration unit 103 while maintaining a given tension due to the conveying nozzles 9A 109A and the suction device 110. Preferably, the electrolyte membrane 105 is not fed for one span at one time, but is intermittently fed between the separator/GDL assemblies 102. The electrolyte membrane 105 fed between the separator/GDL assemblies 102 is maintained in a non-contact state with respect to the separator/GDL assemblies 102 on both sides by the conveyance airflows blown out of the conveying nozzles 9A 109A until the jig press-fits the separator/GDL assemblies 102.